

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 04630 231707Z

41

ACTION AF-18

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R 221706Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9235

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 4630

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, GH

SUBJECT: GHANA DIPLOMAT DISCUSSES LIBERIA

1. NEWLY ARRIVED (TWO MONTHS AGO) GHANIAN COUNSELLOR ATO ALLOTEY AIRED SOME RATHER CAUSTIC OPINIONS OF LIBERIA AND PRESIDENT TOLBERT DURING DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF ON AUGUST 21. ALLOTEY SEEMS BE COMPETENT, EXPERIENCED PERSON WHO IS WILLING TALK IN SPECIFIC TERMS.

2. CONVERSATION WAS GENERATED BY OUR DESIRE FIND OUT BACKGROUND OF TOLBERT'S SUDDEN TRIP TO ACCRA. ALLOTEY SAID TRIP WAS GENERATED AT REQUEST FROM TOLBERT QUITE SUDDENLY AND HAD AS ITS BASIS DESIRE OF TOLBERT TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HE SAID TOLBERT WAS LOOKING TO COORDINATE MODERATES PRIOR TO CONFERENCE. ALLOTEY ADDED WITH CONSIDERABLE HEAT QTE GHANA WILL NEVER BE A MODERATE WHERE AFRICA IS CONCERNED. UNQTE IN REPLY TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT LIBERIAN ATTITUDE ON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS HARDENING, GHANA DIPLOMAT REPLIED FIRMLY QTE NO UNQTE. HE FEELS TOLBERT AND GOL ARE PAYING ONLY LIP SERVICE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENT ALTHOUGH HE DID CONCEDE RECENT TRIP TO DAR ES SALAAM MIGHT HAVE OPENED LIBERIAN EYES SOMEWHAT. HE CLAIMED LIBERIA IS BEHIND IN PAYMENTS TO LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND FEW PAYMENTS ALREADY MADE ARE

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PAGE 02 MONROV 04630 231707Z

SMALL, ALMOST INSULTING IN COMPARISON WITH THOSE MADE BY

OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.

3. ALLOTEY THEN LAUNCHED INTO STRONG CRITICISM OF GOL AND LEADERS HERE WHOM HE SAID WERE MOTIVATED ONLY BY QTE AVARICE AND GREED UNQTE. HE FEELS PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS NOT ACHIEVED ANY SUCCESS IN SEPARATING HIMSELF FROM IMAGE OF TUBMAN. IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION THIS MIGHT TAKE LONGER TIME THAN TOLBERT HAS YET HAD IN OFFICE, ALLOTEY SAID TOLBERT COULD HAVE INSTITUTED CHANGES IF HE WISHED. HE WENT ON TO SAY NEW ADMINISTRATION USING SAME TECHNIQUES AS OLD, IS DIVIDING OPPOSITION, USING MONEY AND PERSONAL FAVORS TO SECURE THIS POSITION. HE SUGGESTED REST OF AGRICA SHOULD LEAVE LIBERIA ALONE, TO CONTINUE IN HER WAYS SINCE MEANINGFUL CHANGE WAS NOT GOING TO COME IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE OFFERED LITTLE HOPE FOR THE YOUNG ELEMENT HERE WHO, HE CLAIMS, WILL BE CO-OPTED INTO THE SYSTEM AS THEY MATURE.

4. GHANIAN IRE MAY HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY SHORT NOTICE OF VISIT OF PRESIDENT TO GHANA, FRUSTRATIONS IN DEALING WITH MINFOAFFS WHO, HE CLAIMED, WERE TOTALLY UNHELPFUL IN MAKING DETAILED PLANS, LIBERIAN HINTS GHANA SHOULD SEND PRIVATE PLANE TO CARRY PRESIDENT AND OTHER TRIVIA INVOLVED IN PLANNING SPEEDY VISIT.

5. ALLOTEY ALSO SAID TOLBERT WOULD BE VISITING IVORY COAST ON AUGUST 28, PRESUMABLY FOR SAME PURPOSE AND ADDED HIS UNDERSTANDING HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY PLANNING ATTEND ALGIERS CONFERENCE.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BIO DATA EMBASSY ACCRA HAS ON ALLOTEY.

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